

2005

LOCAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Aid for Towns in the 12th Senate District

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 12th state Senate district is ensuring Branford, Durham, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison and North Branford receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Education Grants	\$18,377,608	This funding represents an increase of \$922,233 or 4.55% over last year's total
Town Roads Grant	\$862,292	
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$408,139	
Capital Projects Grant	\$624,453	
PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes)	\$938,059	
Totals	\$21,210,551	

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The Hammonasset River

The Hammonasset River in Madison is threatened by Unilever's proposal to pump its industrial discharge into that river. State Representative Deborah Heinrich and I intervened, and the Department of Environmental Protection has acceded to our request for a public hearing on this environmental challenge.

Long Island Sound

A company called Broadwater Energy has proposed the construction of an immense liquefied natural gas terminal off the Branford shoreline—10 stories high and almost 4 football fields long. The safety and environmental implications of the proposal are frightening, and the terminal would reflect a disturbing industrialization of Long Island Sound. The approval of the project is subject to exclusive federal control, and I am working with other shoreline legislators to defeat this project.

I participated in a news conference in Madison to bring attention to and oppose industrial dumping into the Hammonasset River.



Senator Edward Meyer

a message
to my
constituents

Dear Neighbor:

This report sets forth some of the achievements of the 2005 regular session of the state legislature. As chair of the Select Committee on Children, I was closely involved with specific new laws including the curtailment of pesticides on facilities for young children, early childhood education initiatives, and the school nutrition bill which, though vetoed by the governor, will be brought back.

Further, I requested, and as of this writing we are holding, a special legislative session to try to deal with significant, undone business—ethics in government contracting, campaign finance reform, and controls on the taking of private property by eminent domain. Another challenge we have not yet met is property tax reform, although we passed a budget which returns more money to our towns than we have seen in recent years. It should take some pressure off the local property tax.

My legislative activities this fall have also included chairing a task force which will seek to streamline our adoption laws, promote adoption and thereby build stronger families. We are holding public hearings throughout the state.

It is a privilege to represent you, and please continue to share your priorities, ideas and concerns with me.

Sincerely,

Ed Meyer
State Senator, 12th District

State Senator

Edward Meyer

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I'm proud
to represent
the 12th state
Senate District
which includes
the communities
of Branford,
Durham, Guilford,
Killingworth,
Madison and
North Branford

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What do you think?

I am already preparing for the next legislative session that begins in February. As part of this effort, I have included this short survey on important issues likely to face the General Assembly. This survey will allow me to quickly register residents' priorities and learn if a broad consensus exists in our district. This survey is also available for you to fill out on my Web page (see address below). You are always welcome to write me with more detailed responses or thoughts on these and other issues.

Increasing local property taxes is becoming an unacceptable burden to many residents. What should our state do to address this problem?

- ☐ Establish property tax exemptions for those residents who are more adversely affected such as seniors, young adults, the disabled and lower income families.
- ☐ Increase the state income tax at higher income levels and return those revenues to our cities and towns for specific property tax reductions
- ☐ Leave the issue to the cities and towns—it is not a state issue

Previously, the state legislature reduced the gas tax by 7 cents. What should be the future role of the state and federal governments in keeping gasoline and oil prices down?

- ☐ The federal government should be responsible for lower prices
- ☐ The state has a definite role, such as lowering the gas tax
- ☐ The state should provide greater incentives for energy conservation
- ☐ The state should pioneer in promoting alternatives to gasoline

Below are some of the pressing issues facing the General Assembly. Please rank from 1 to 3 the three issues you feel are most important:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ___ No Child Left Behind requirements | ___ Open space preservation |
| ___ Healthcare and insurance | ___ Jobs and the economy |
| ___ Transportation | ___ Crime and criminal justice |
| ___ Campaign finance reform | ___ Childhood obesity |
| ___ Gasoline prices | ___ Higher school standards |

Please trim off the survey portion of this newsletter, fold it in thirds, staple or tape it closed, and affix a 37¢ stamp before mailing back to me. This survey is also online at www.senatedems.ct.gov/Meyer.html (click on the survey link). Many thanks in advance for taking the time to share your opinions.

State Senator Edward Meyer
Room 1000
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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SENATOR EDWARD MEYER

2005 REPORT CARD

Too often, these newsletters are just a rosy review of the successes of the past legislative year, instead of an honest assessment of what went right or wrong at the State Capitol. There were victories, but there were also disappointments, and we need to be honest about that. What follows is a brief summary of some of the major issues of 2005.

↑ Pesticide Spraying at Schools and Day Care Centers

Pesticides are often used to control the spread of weeds, insects, rodents and bacteria, among other known pests, but they can also be dangerous to people. This session, we passed legislation which I sponsored restricting the use of lawn care pesticides at preschools and elementary schools, and at child daycare centers and group daycare homes.

↔ Reimportation of Prescription Drugs

We established a feasibility study for either purchasing prescription drugs or joining an existing program with other states that enables Connecticut residents to purchase less expensive drugs from pharmacies in Canada or other countries. I would have preferred a full-fledged discount program, not another study.

↓ School Nutrition

Much attention has focused recently on the epidemic of overweight and obese children. Overweight children can face severe health problems, such as asthma, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and heart disease. This session, the legislature took action which I co-sponsored to ensure that our schools are providing only healthy snacks in schools and no soda pop in most vending machines. This law would have made our schools a model for the rest of the country, but was vetoed by the governor.

↑ Honoring Those Who Serve: Military Assistance Package

The legislature passed a Military Assistance Package this year that will extend more benefits to our state veterans. This package includes death benefits for surviving family members of Connecticut-based active duty servicemen and servicewomen; a Military Family Relief Fund to help military families while a loved one is away; and a small stipend to families of deployed members of the National Guard.

↑ Transportation

For years, Connecticut has not had a positive transportation policy, which has resulted in congested highways and decrepit rail service. Now, however, with our approval of a \$1.3 billion appropriation, we will see (over 10 years) new rail cars, improvements to I-95, I-91 and I-84 and new buses. Still no proposed improvements for rail service through the middle of our state—from New Haven to Hartford—have been approved.

CONTINUING TO WORK FOR CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE



↑ Open Space

Connecticut is gradually losing farm land and open space and gaining urban sprawl. I co-sponsored legislation which requires our municipalities to charge a \$30 document recording fee, the revenue of which will be applied to open space acquisition, farm land preservation and historic preservation.

↑ Supporting Stem Cell Research

New cutting-edge research involving the use of embryonic stem cells has the potential to discover treatments and cures for debilitating diseases like diabetes, Parkinson's disease, certain cancers and multiple sclerosis. This session, the legislature sent the message that Connecticut supports stem cell research that is conducted ethically and professionally. Moreover, we will invest \$100 million over 10 years in this research in an attempt to attract research scientists and high-paying jobs to our state.

↑ A New State Budget

The new two-year budget passed by the General Assembly shows a continued commitment to education. A few of the highlights include:

- The largest expansion of the School Readiness program since its creation (\$10 million in FY06 and \$13 million in FY07).
- \$52 million more than originally proposed for Higher Education.
- \$62 million more for Education Cost Sharing in FY06 over last year.

↓ Ethics

As of this writing, the state legislature has not yet reformed the structure of ethics enforcement across state government. State contractors, lobbyists and other special interests continue to exert an unhealthy influence at the Capitol and conflicts of interest remain. That's why I supported the bill establishing contracting standards passed recently in special session. I also continue to fight strongly for campaign finance reform and the creation of a legislative ethics committee, all of which I hope will soon become law.



I participated in a rally against the proposed Broadwater Liquefied Natural Gas terminal in Long Island Sound. With me are Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and state Representative Pat Wilditz.

